

2003

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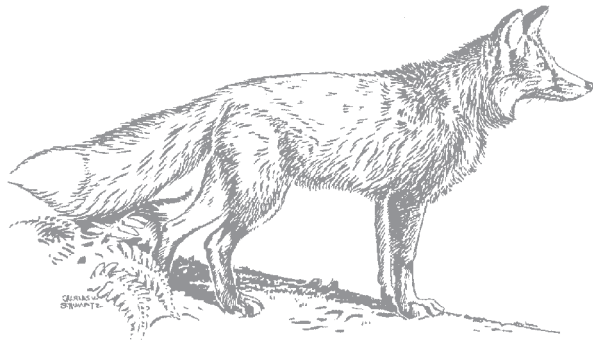
Trapping Regulations



This booklet gives you a summary of Wisconsin's most important trapping laws and how they affect you; it is not a complete set of laws.



**Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources**
PUB-WM-002 2003



Support ETHICAL RESPONSIBLE TRAPPING
Report Violations
Call 1-800-TIP-WDNR
(1-800-847-9367)
Toll Free Statewide 24-Hour Confidential
(This is NOT an information number)

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This publication is available in braille, audio cassette, large print or computer format upon request. To order, call (608) 266-8204.

Cover photo; Crystal Sublisky, Trapper Education Instructor, with Maggie, Ben and Nick McAuley.

Dear Wisconsin Trapper,

With the 2003 Wisconsin Trapping Regulations, we begin a new year with new opportunities in the world of furbearer management. Wisconsin's diversity of furbearers and outdoor opportunities is unparalleled east of the Mississippi!

In addition, we have superb cooperation and teamwork between the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Trappers Association, WDNR, the public, trappers, neighboring states and federal agencies.

The Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program continues to grow and strengthen with thousands of new trappers taking up this time-honored tradition. After learning about the basic biology of furbearers, the role of furbearers in our ecosystems, trappers' role in responsible management, trapper ethics and responsibilities, these graduates take to the trapline with an excellent foundation. This strong education program and proactive direction will continue to make Wisconsin a leader in furbearer management in North America.

Have a safe, memorable trapping season. Learn new skills, respect others' needs, and take a friend or family member with you. Through your guidance, the beauty of our forests, fields, and wetland communities can become an inspiration for others. Through your responsible actions, non-trappers will have a greater appreciation of what makes an ethical trapper one of the finest naturalists in our region. Prior to, during and after the trapping season, act as if the future of trapping depends on your actions – because it does! Have a safe, productive and memorable season.

*John F. Olson
Furbearer Specialist*

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DNR Service Centers

Contact these DNR Service Centers for **tagging dates**.

Office hours may vary by location.

Contact Service Center for information on office hours.

South Central Region

Madison	608-275-3266
Dodgeville	608-935-3368
Horicon	920-387-7860
Janesville	608-743-4800
Poynette	608-635-8110

Southeast Region (Milwaukee)

Hartford (Pike Lake)	262-670-3400
Kettle Moraine State Forest (South)	262-594-6200
Kettle Moraine State Forest (North)	262-626-2116
Plymouth	920-892-8756
Sturtevant	262-884-2300
Waukesha	262-574-2100

Northeast Region (Green Bay)

Oshkosh	920-424-3050
Peshtigo	715-582-5000
Sturgeon Bay	920-746-2860
Wautoma	920-787-4686

West Central Region (Eau Claire)

Baldwin	715-684-2914
Black River Falls	715-284-1400
La Crosse	608-785-9000
Wausau	715-359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids	715-421-7800

Northern Region

Antigo	715-627-4317
Ashland	715-685-2900
Cumberland	715-822-3590
Hayward	715-634-2688
Ladysmith	715-532-3911
Park Falls	715-762-3204
Rhineland	715-365-8900
Spooner	715-635-2101
Superior	715-392-7988
Woodruff	715-356-5211

General mailing address:

Department of Natural Resources,
Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

Phone: 608-266-2621.

What's New in 2003

Carcass Collection for 2003: You must present bobcat and Zone E fisher carcasses when pelts are registered. As in past years, you are required to skin the animal and separate the pelt from the carcass before registration at designated DNR stations. The only modifications to this rule are those specimens going to a taxidermist. We seriously need these carcasses for research and management purposes.

Otter Research: Again this fall we will collect otter carcasses from select watersheds of our Great Lakes in an effort to better understand impacts and effects of mercury on furbearers. If you are a successful applicant for otter tags and trap in one of the study areas, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Detailed information will be enclosed in the fall permit mailings and through publications of the Wisconsin Trappers Association.

Use of Cable Restraints on dry land is a distinct possibility in 2004. The rule proposal is expected to be approved and would allow use of this tool from January 1 to February 15th. If interested, please contact your local DNR office later this year.

Responsible use is important! Please contact your local Wisconsin Trappers Association Trapper Education Coordinator (see page 35) for information on local trapper education courses, special workshops, or a rendezvous near you.

Mississippi River Zone

- Following considerable input from citizens of Wisconsin, especially trappers and duck hunters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources agreed to implement an earlier opening for trapping in the Mississippi River Zone.

- This change, initiated in 1999, was the first time since the 1977-78 season that trapping has been permitted during the duck-hunting season in this zone. This year the muskrat and mink seasons in the Mississippi River Zone open on November 10. If the duck season closes prior to November 10, the trapping season will begin the day following the end of the duck hunting season.
- The success of this new program rests with the trapping and hunting community. During years when seasons overlap, trappers can minimize contact with waterfowl hunters by setting and checking traps on weekdays, checking traps during mid-day, pulling trap lines prior to the weekend, asking hunters for permission to check traps in areas where hunters are set-up, and approaching areas with hunters only when ducks are not flying. Duck hunters can help by being aware of trapper presence and encouraging mid-day trap checks.
- On private lands within the Mississippi River Zone the trapping seasons for raccoon, coyote and fox open with the regular state season dates as they always have. (See page 23.)
- On lands managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and located within the Mississippi River Zone, the raccoon, coyote and fox seasons open with the muskrat and mink seasons. The beaver and otter season dates are not affected. Trapping on federal lands within the Mississippi River Zone involves obtaining a Refuge Trapping Permit, a restriction on number of traps allowed, trap placement restrictions, time of the trapping opener and trap check hours, to name a few.

- Trappers, please take special care when trapping on uplands. We recommend you consider refraining from placing upland sets until after the close of the duck season.
 - Trappers and waterfowl hunters alike must remember there are others who use and enjoy the amazing resources of the Mississippi River. Please remain courteous, and accommodate each other's needs.
- Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Website Information

- For more information on Furbearer Management and Trapping Issues try the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/trap/> or the website of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (I.A.F.W.A.) at <http://www.furbearermgmt.org/>.

Definitions

Dry Set - means a trap set or staked to be completely on dry land with no possibility of the trap or trapped animal to reach water.

Wet Set - means a trap which is set or staked in a manner to permit the trap or trapped animal to reach water at any point.

Capable of Drowning - means a set designed to allow the trapped animal to travel to water of sufficient depth to cause drowning. Slide wires or poles, locking devices, slip chains, weighted traps and traps staked in deep water are commonly used in drowning sets.

Sight Exposed Bait - means any bait which can be seen from above the bait.

Enclosed Trigger Trap - means any trap with a pull-activated trigger, inside an enclosure and recessed 1¼ inches or more, from an opening that is no grater than 1¾ inches in diameter.

Trapping Hours

Legal trapping hours are from 4:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.

License and Permit Information

- 1. Residency:** You must be a Wisconsin resident to purchase a Wisconsin trapping license. **Cost:** \$18.00 Please see page 31 for trapper education requirements.
- 2. Duplicates:** You can acquire a duplicate trapping license at any license outlet with your driver's license and Social Security number or DNR customer number. Duplicate trapper education certificates are also available through the DNR in Madison.
- 3. Use:** You may ***not***:
 - transfer your license, permit or tag, or allow its use by anyone else.
 - carry any trapping license, permit or tag issued to anyone else.
 - obtain a trapping license, permit or tag for someone else.
- 4. Landowner Provisions:** The owner or occupant of any land, and family members who reside on the land, *do not need a license to*:
 - trap coyotes, beaver, foxes, raccoon, woodchucks, rabbits and squirrels on the land year-round. (See "Beaver Damage Control" on page 25 for more information.)
 - live trap with cage traps for beaver, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels on the land at any time in cities, villages or other areas where the discharge of firearms is unlawful. Live trapped animals must be either killed or released on private land with the landowner's permission.

5. Purchasing Fur: You must possess a Fur Dealers License or DNR permit to purchase fur.

6. Animals Causing Damage: During the closed season, a DNR permit may be required to remove nuisance animals. In northern Wisconsin contact USDA Wildlife Services in Rhinelander at 1-800-228-1368 or in southern Wisconsin call the Waupun office at 1-800-433-0688.

Trap Checking Requirements

Dry Set - You must check dry sets at least once each day and remove any captured animals from the set.

Wet set - You must check wet sets at least once each day and remove any captured animals from the set.

Drowning Set - Sets capable of drowning must be checked within a 4-day period following the last tending of the set and any captured animals removed from the set. You must monitor water levels to ensure effective drowning sets.

Ice Set - There are no mandated trap checking periods for sets made under the ice.

Trap Size & Placement Restrictions

Consider all set placement to avoid contact with humans and domestic animals. When using conibear type traps on dry land, we strongly encourage the use of cubbys and elevated sets. Future use of conibear type traps depends on it!

You may not:

- set, place or operate any *waterset* smaller than 5 and 1/2 inch jaw spread for steel-jawed traps and 6 and 3/4 inch x 6 and 3/4 inch for killer traps (conibear type) during the beaver and otter seasons, *except* when the

muskrat or mink season is open in the zone you are trapping.

- set, place or operate any steel-jawed trap with a spread width of more than 8 inches.
- operate trap sets which permit the trapped animal to reach water, except when the muskrat, beaver or otter trapping season is open in the zone you are trapping.
- set a trap or snare other than a commercially manufactured enclosed trigger trap closer than 15 feet from any beaver dam. (Landowners see “Beaver Damage Control” on page 25.)
- set, place or operate any killer trap (conibear type) that is larger than 7 x 7 inches *unless one-half of the trap is located underwater at all times.*
- set, place, or operate any snare regardless of the noose size, *unless one-half of the snare noose is located underwater at all times.*
- set, place or operate any steel-jawed trap with teeth unless such traps are located completely underwater at all times.
- set, place or operate any killer trap (conibear type) greater than 6 x 6 inches or any snare regardless of the size of the noose in the following locations:
 1. Within 3 feet of any federal, state or county road right-of-way culvert unless completely submerged in water.
 2. Within 3 feet of any woven or welded wire fence.
 3. Within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy without the owners consent.
- use sight exposed bait consisting of feathers, animal flesh, fur, hide or entrails within 25 feet of any trap.
- set, place or operate any snare unless the noose cable and noose attachments conform to the following specifications:
 1. Cable length may not exceed 5 feet.
 2. It must be non-stainless steel metal cable or wire.

3. The cable or wire diameter may not exceed 1/8 inch.
4. It must have a mechanical lock and anchor swivel.

Methods

All live furbearing animals taken during the open season for such species shall be killed immediately and made part of the daily bag. It is unlawful to keep such animals alive after their capture, unless you have first obtained the DNR permit or license that permits their possession.

Elevated traps are legal for furbearers as long as the sight exposed bait law is followed.

You may not:

- place a trap, snare, bait or scent for furbearing animals during the closed season.
- set any trap or snare unless a metal tag is attached, stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address of the owner. Heavy-duty stamped tags are desirable.
- take or attempt to take beaver, fisher, mink, muskrat or otter by any means other than trapping or snaring.
- possess any trap for the purpose of catching furbearing animals other than a steel-jawed trap, live trap or snare. Such traps shall be constructed so that not more than one animal can be taken or captured.
- *molest or take traps, snares or trapped animals that belong to someone else.*

Trap Theft: Stealing or molesting traps or snares is a criminal act and is punishable by fine (\$300-\$1,000), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or both, and a mandatory 5-year revocation of license.

You may not:

- disturb or molest any mink den, muskrat house, muskrat feeding house or beaver dam.
- place on the ice, any artificial house or den for the purpose of catching any furbearing animals.

Possession Restrictions

Definitions: (1) *Raw fur* means the undressed skins or pelts of any furbearing animal, including ones that have been stretched and dried. (2) *Green pelts* are the skins or pelts of any furbearing animal that have not been stretched and/or dried.

You may not:

- possess the green pelts of any furbearing animal, except beaver, beginning on the 6th day after the season closes.
- possess a bobcat, fisher or otter pelt at any time, unless a valid carcass tag is attached and locked to the pelt.
- possess any mink, muskrat, fisher, or otter pelt that has been shot or speared.
- possess any raw fisher, mink, muskrat or otter pelt at any time without a current trapping or fur dealer's license or special permit issued by the DNR.
- ship fur unless the outside of the container is marked with the number and species being shipped, and the name, address and trapping license number of the shipper.

Special Regulations

Bobcat, Fisher and Otter

Permits and Tags

You may not:

- trap or attempt to trap any **bobcat, fisher or otter** unless you possess special DNR permits and tags:
 1. Application forms and application stickers (\$3.00 each) for bobcat, fisher and otter are available starting in early August from DNR offices listed on page 5 of this booklet, any license outlet, over the phone at **1-877-WI LICENSE** or on line at www.dnr.state.wi.us. Mail applications to the DNR License Section, Box 7924, Madison, WI 53707. Applications must be postmarked no later than Sept. 10 or received in person at the DNR Information Center, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, by that same date.
 2. You must possess your valid license, permit and tags while trapping.
- possess or have under control any bobcat, fisher or otter unless you immediately validate, attach and seal a pelt tag through the opening of the animal's mouth to the opening of its eye, immediately beneath the skin (see instructions on the carcass tag for further details.) The pelt tag shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation.
- Possess, loan or borrow the license or carcass tag belonging to another.

Registration

You may not:

- transfer, give, trade, sell, or purchase any bobcat, fisher or otter pelt unless it bears a DNR registration tag attached by an authorized DNR representative.

- possess fisher, bobcat, or otter pelts *later than 5 days after the month of harvest* without registering the pelt(s) with an authorized DNR representative.

You must skin bobcat, fisher and otter and separate the pelt from the carcass before registering the pelts at designated DNR stations. The only exception is with specimens going to a taxidermist. In those situations it is not necessary to separate the pelt from the carcass for registration. However, you must retrieve the carcass from your taxidermist and deliver it to the DNR within 30 days of registration. In 2003, you must present your ***bobcat, and Zone E fisher carcasses*** when your pelts are registered; the DNR retains the carcasses for research purposes. Station locations vary. Watch for newspaper notices prior to the season or contact your nearest DNR office.

Animals Protected at All Times

The following wild animals are designated protected: badger, Canada lynx, cougar, elk, flying squirrel, moose, pine marten, gray wolf, white deer, wolverine and any other endangered or threatened species.

Incidental Take Policy

In those circumstances where incidental catch of a protected species is possible, please contact your local conservation warden for instructions on how to release, or if dead, how to transport to the Department. A protected species is any species for which the season is closed, there is no open season, or a person has no authority to possess.

Special Rule Clarifications

- **Trapping Along Roadsides:** Permission to trap road right-of-ways can be a complex issue. Most right-of-ways are owned by either the State or the local unit of government, however in some cases, the adjoining landowner still maintains ownership of the underlying land. Trappers should contact the owner of the land underlying any public road, street or highway for permission to trap.
- **Trapping Navigable Waterways:** Trapping on private land in Wisconsin, including on navigable waters over private land, may constitute a trespass. *Trappers need to obtain permission before trapping on any private land, even if entry is by public waterways (enforced by the county sheriff's department).*
- **Preseason Marking of Trap Sites:** Using stakes or other devices to mark a trap site anywhere prior to the season opener has no legal basis, is not recommended, and does not reserve the site for the person placing the stake or markers.
- **Unprotected Species:** Opossum, skunks and weasels are unprotected and may be trapped year-round by persons possessing a trapping license.



Conibear Regulations

No person may set, place or operate any 7"x 7" killer, 220 conibear type, trap; as a

Water set - unless one-half of the set trap is located underwater at all times;

Elevated set - unless the trap is placed at least 5 feet above the surface;

Baited and/or scented set in or on the ground - unless the trap trigger is within an enclosure that provides openings no greater than 50 square inches for a 7 inch recess; OR, an 8 inch height by 10 inch width opening with a 10 inch minimum recess from the enclosure openings;

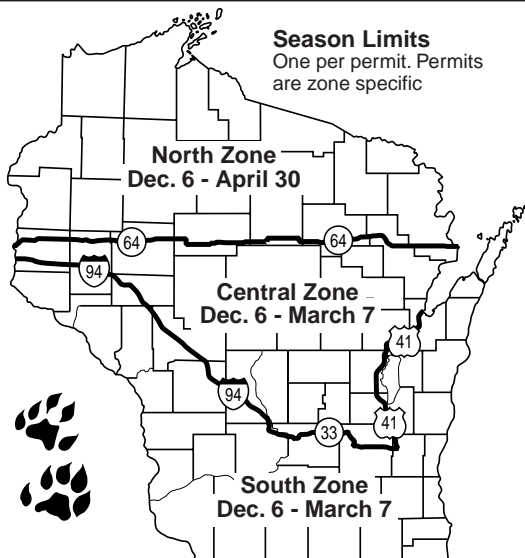
Unbaited and/or unscented trail set - unless the trap is within an enclosure that provides openings no greater than 10 inches in height and 10 inches in width and is recessed a minimum of 15 inches from the enclosure openings; or

Bottom entry enclosure set - unless the entire opening of the enclosure is no more than 7 inches above the surface.

The measurement to the surface is the distance to the first surface beneath the trap or opening where the surface is ground, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard material.

For the purposes of this section, an enclosure means any device that creates a barrier to the trap allowing entry only through designated openings.

Otter



Application Deadline: September 10

Otter taken during beaver trapping are not legal unless the otter season is open and you possess valid otter tags. Otter may not be taken any other time.

Pick up litter and keep your trapping grounds healthy!

Fisher

Fisher Management Zones are made up of the following Deer Management Units:

Zone A - 1, 1M, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 78, and 79

Zone B - 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29A, and 30

Zone C - 29B, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 52

Zone D - 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49A, 49B, 50, 51A, and 51B

Zone E - 27, 53, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57B, 57C, 58 and 59A

Zone F - Remainder of the state. Permits are not available in zone F.

Season Dates

Various zones Nov.1 - Dec. 31

Application Deadline: September 10

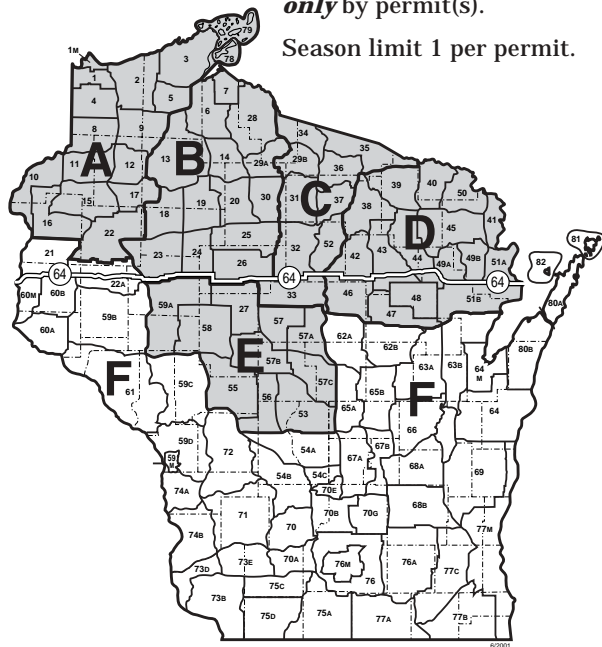
Carcass Collection: In 2003, you must present your Zone E fisher carcass when pelts are registered.



Season Limits

Special zones (A, B, C, D, E)
only by permit(s).

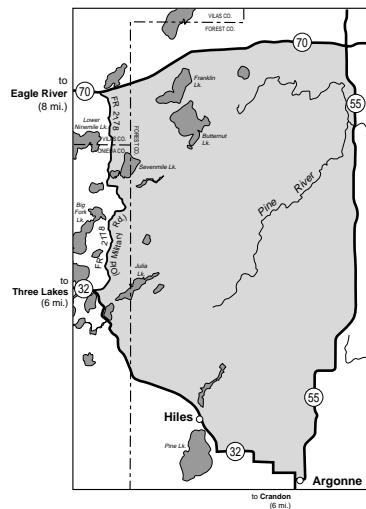
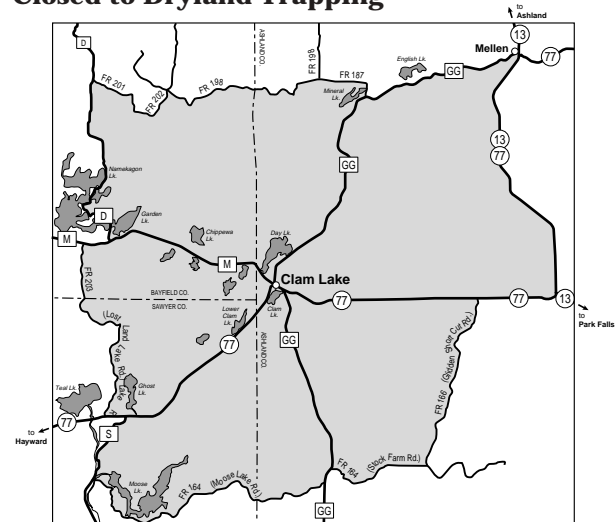
Season limit 1 per permit.



 **Fisher Management Zones**
where permits are available
Application deadline: Sept. 10



Marten Restoration Areas Closed to Dryland Trapping



Bobcat, Coyote, Raccoon, Red and Gray Fox

Bobcat

North of Highway 64
only by permit.



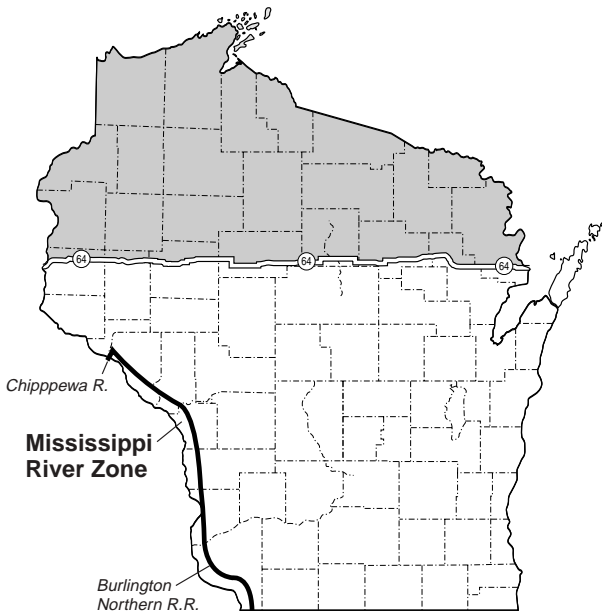
Season Limit

One per permit.



Bobcat Application Deadline: September 10

Note: In 2003, you must present your bobcat carcass at the time of registration.



Coyote

No bag limit statewide.



Raccoon

No bag limit statewide.



Red and Gray Fox

No bag limit statewide.



Season Dates

North of Highway 64

Bobcat	Oct. 18 - Dec. 31
Raccoon	Oct. 18 - Jan. 31
Fox	Oct. 18 - Feb. 15
Coyote	Oct. 18 - Feb. 15

South of Highway 64

Fox	Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
Coyote	Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
Raccoon	Oct. 18 - Jan. 31

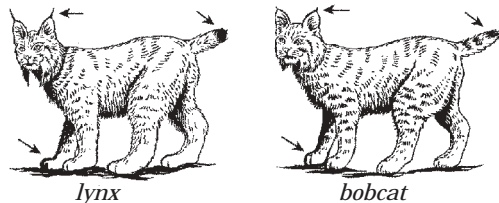
Mississippi River Zone

Federal Lands: On federal lands within the Mississippi River Zone, the coyote, raccoon, and fox seasons do not open until the muskrat and mink seasons open. (See pages 26-27).

Private Lands: On private lands within the Mississippi River Zone, the coyote, raccoon, and fox seasons open as listed "South of Highway 64" (above).



Canada lynx, a rare visitor to Wisconsin, is now listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please help us protect this unique animal through your careful observation. View the illustrations below and if you observe a Canada lynx contact your local DNR office immediately.



Lynx are distinguished from bobcat primarily by the tip of their tail, which is completely black. Only the upper half of the tail tip is black on the bobcat. Lynx also have larger ear tufts, are lighter in coloration, have large densely furred feet, and less distinct tracks than bobcat.



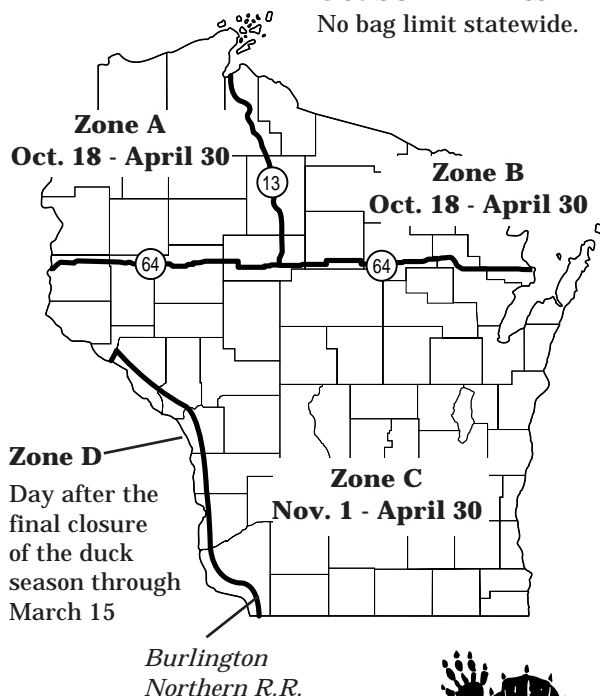
TV Show for Kids

Into the Outdoors is DNR's Emmy Award winning TV show for kids. The half-hour program is hosted by kids who use the Internet to find other kids their age doing outdoor activities and learning about the environment. The show is linked to *EEK!*, DNR's web site for kids, and airs on weekend mornings. See local TV listings for times and stations.

Beaver

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.



Beaver Damage Control

- Landowners, occupants, and family members may hunt or trap beaver on their land at anytime without a license. Landowners may also trap on beaver dams. Beaver dams may be removed without a permit.
- See DNR publication no. WM-007, Beaver Damage Control, or contact local DNR office for more information.

Mink

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.

Zone	Dates
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Northern	Oct. 18 - Dec. 31, 2003
Central	Oct. 25 - Dec. 31, 2003
Winnebago	Oct. 25, 2003 - Mar. 15, 2004
Mississippi	* - Jan. 15, 2004
Southern	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, 2003

* Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November (Nov. 10), whichever occurs first.

Muskrat

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.

Zone	Dates
------	-------

Northern	Oct. 18, 2003 - Feb. 29, 2004
Central	Oct. 25, 2003 - Feb. 29, 2004
Winnebago	Oct. 25, 2003 - Mar. 15, 2004
Mississippi	* - Feb. 29, 2004
Southern	Nov. 1, 2003 - Feb. 29, 2004

* Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November (Nov. 10), whichever occurs first.

Muskrats taken while beaver trapping are legal fur. Note the rules listed under "Trap Size and Placement Restrictions" on pages 10 and 11.

Mink & Muskrat Zones



Horicon National Wildlife Refuge: Open to trapping on a permit system. Permit details are available through:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Refuge Manager
Horicon NWR
W4279 Headquarters Rd.
Mayville, WI 53050
920-387-2658

Special trapping permits are required to trap the Upper Mississippi Federal Wildlife Refuge. For more information contact:

Headquarters Office
51 E. 4th Street
Winona, MN 55987
507-452-4232

Best Management Practices

Trappers and state wildlife agencies are currently developing “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) for trapping furbearers in the United States. BMPs are methods to improve trapping by developing recommendations using sound science. They are developed through actual field tests and careful data collection. The information will be eventually provided to state agencies and trappers for voluntary use in their trapper education and furbearer management programs.

Wisconsin has been involved in the BMP process since it began in 1997. Field trap tests to date, have occurred throughout the state. Licensed trappers, who are active members of the Wisconsin Trappers Association, have completed all field tests during the regular trapping seasons. “The Eastern Coyote BMP” is now available, the first of several such publications. A Wisconsin 3-year study is nearing completion on dryland Cable Restraint’s. For more information, please visit our website at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/trap/index.htm or the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group’s web site at www.furbearermgmt.org. In Wisconsin we will continue into our third year of a state BMP on dryland restraint snares for mid-winter canines.

Public Impressions of Trapping

The International Association of Fish And Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), the sponsor of this huge BMP effort, selected Connecticut, Indiana, and Wisconsin to study public perceptions of educational and promotional materials in 2000 and 2001. This selection was the result of hard work and determination of our trappers, technicians and others behind the scenes in Wisconsin. This was good not only for our state, but it

also positively reflects on the proactive efforts of the WTA, WDNR, Conservation Congress and the trapping community. Congratulations!

What Have We Learned?

Through the results of science-based, highly accurate surveys, we have learned that the following messages are important in communicating the role of trapping in Wisconsin.

- Regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become threatened or endangered.
- Trapping is managed through scientifically-based regulations strictly enforced by Wisconsin Conservation Wardens.
- Wisconsin DNR, with input from stakeholders, continually reviews and develops rules, regulations, education programs, and capture methods that consider animal welfare.
- Regulated trapping provides many benefits including: reducing wildlife damage to crops and property; and reducing threats to human health and safety.

Why are BMPs needed?

- To ensure the continued responsible management of wildlife resources;
- To continue the process of improving traps and trapping methods that will maintain and improve animal welfare;
- To maintain public acceptance through a reduction in real and perceived problems associated with trapping;
- To sustain regulated trapping now and in the future, and to maintain the integrity of furbearer management programs throughout the United States.

Trapping will only prosper and continue if the trapping community, along with natural resource agencies, work together to improve harvest systems and promote the humane treatment of furbearers. Thanks for your support!

Trapper Education Course



Wisconsin
Cooperative



Trapper Education Program (WCTEP)

A Cooperative Trapper Education Program of the
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
and Wisconsin Trappers Association

Fur trapping in Wisconsin

Few people realize how important trapping of furbearing animals has been in Wisconsin. Starting in the early 1600s, Europeans such as Jean Nicolet began exploring Wisconsin, lured by the promise of waters teeming with beaver. For nearly 200 years Europeans traded with local Native American trappers at trade centers such as Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. As European settlement expanded, trapping continued to play an important role in the development of the state.

Since those early years, trapping in Wisconsin has changed a great deal. Furs are no longer brought down the Wisconsin River to trade for tools and flour. Today, trapping is a source of outdoor activity for several thousand people. It is carefully regulated to protect sensitive species, to encourage ethical practices, and to help control furbearer populations such as beaver, muskrat and raccoon, which can become overpopulated, diseased or cause property damage and flooding. The future of trapping in Wisconsin depends on proper management and ethical trapping — a task that requires the cooperation of all trappers, landowners, and resource managers.

Why trapper education?

We believe that trappers create a good image when they engage in responsible and ethical pursuit of our furbearing resource. Trapper education teaches new or inexperienced trappers ethical trapping procedures, the most humane trapping methods, the history of trapping in Wisconsin and North America, and basic wildlife management principles. It is also important for trappers to learn and understand the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners, other outdoor enthusiasts, and managers of our natural resources. The trapper education course provides a solid beginning to trapping education — an education you will use everyday on the trapline.

Who must attend?

All first-time trappers must complete the Trapper Education Course prior to purchasing a trapping license. It is recommended that you be at least 12 years old. Class size may be limited, so early registration is recommended.

Persons exempt from this requirement must have previously purchased a trapping license, completed a voluntary trapper education course, or be actively engaged in farming as defined in State Statute 102.04(3).

Note: All trappers applying for otter, fisher and bobcat tags must complete the course *before* the permit application deadline. ***No late applications will be accepted.***

What you will learn

The course is designed to provide classroom time and outdoor practice time. A written exam will be given at the end of the last session, which you must pass in order to successfully complete the course.

It includes:

- Trapping history and highlights in wildlife conservation
- Role of trapping today
- Principles of wildlife management
- Wetland values
- Furbearer management, biology, and disease
- Trapping laws and ethics
- Trap preparation, adjustment, setting, and safety
- Humane trapping methods
- Pelt preparation, skinning, grading, and marketing
- Practice setting at least 1 dry land set and 1 water set

The instructors

Each of the certified trapper education instructors in Wisconsin has completed a WTA-DNR instructor course. All are experienced trappers and many are professional biologists. They live in communities throughout Wisconsin.

Correspondence course

A correspondence course is available for students who cannot attend the regular Trapper Education Course classes. Completing the course objectives in this manner will take approximately five weeks. Contact Mike Widner, Correspondence Course Director, P.O. Box 483, Baraboo WI, 53913, (608) 356-9622 for details.

Where are the classes held?

Classes will be held in communities statewide. Class locations are available by contacting instructors or viewing our website at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wild-life/trap.

When do the classes meet?

Each instructor sets their own class schedule, but commonly the course requires 3-4 evening sessions and one weekend morning or afternoon.

What does it cost?

The fee for most courses is \$8.00 payable to the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program. This includes all your instruction materials. Some overnight workshops may have a higher fee if meals are provided.

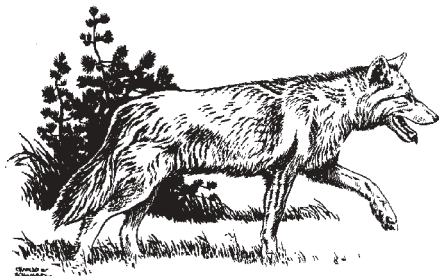
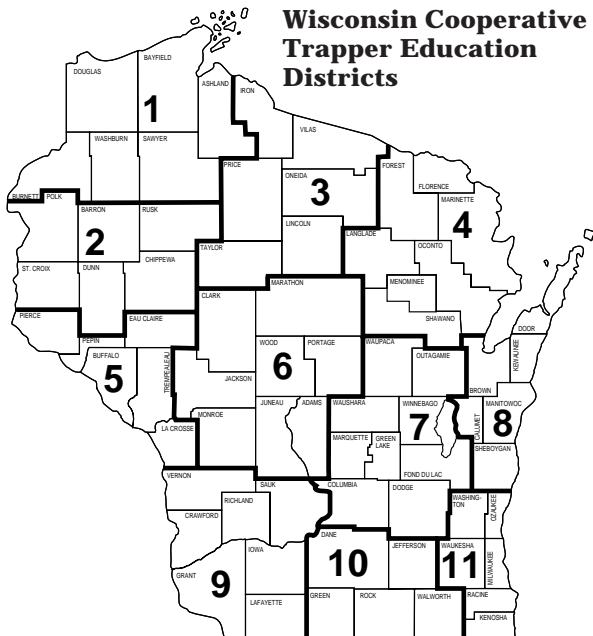
Instructional materials provided

For each student: a student manual, a set of Wisconsin trapping regulations, a graduate card and arm patch, and first year's trapping license for successful graduates.

How do you sign up?

Locate the district where you live on the map below. The person on page 35 identified with that district is the district trapper education coordinator. Contact him or her to get details on course dates, times, locations, and the name of the instructor nearest you. You can use the form on page 36 if you wish. If you cannot reach a district coordinator, contact the statewide coordinator, or DNR Trapper Education Coordinator, 101 South Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921.

Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Districts



Visit the WCTEP website at:
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/trap/trapeduc

Trapper Education Instructors and District Coordinators

WCTEP Statewide Coordinator:

Scott Peterson
 P.O. Box 147 Arena,
 WI 53503
 (608) 753-2508

DNR Trapper Education Coordinator: (608) 261-6452

District 1

Michael Gustafson
 P.O. Box 961
 Bayfield, WI 54814
 (715) 779-3085

District 2

Ken Everson
 1180 8th Ave.
 Baldwin, WI 54002-9365
 (715) 684-4503

District 3

Dave Harmon
 7445 Trailwood Dr.
 Minoqua, WI 54548
 (715) 358-3501

District 4

Jim Churchill
 P.O. Box 84
 Florence, WI 54121
 (715) 528-3001

District 5

Steve Sievwright
 W4471 West County Line Rd.
 Durand, WI 54736
 (715) 672-4370

District 6

Lee Sillars
 6003 Hwy. U
 Wausau, WI 54401
 (715) 675-3073

District 7

Scott Zimmerman
 W9209 Bobolink Rd.
 Reeseville, WI 53579
 (920) 927-3420

District 8

Chris Bezio
 5479 Hawthorn Dr
 Pulaski, WI 54162
 (920) 822-3427

District 9

Sue Peterson
 P.O. Box 1
 Arena, WI 53503
 (608) 753-2284

District 10

Skip Gregoire
 Box 195
 Ft. Atkinson WI 53538
 (920) 563-9132

District 11

Slade Noreen
 5136 Alpine Ct.
 West Bend, WI 53095
 (262) 629-1531

Correspondence Course Director:

Mike Widner,
 P.O. Box 483,
 Baraboo, WI 53913
 (608) 356-9622

For more information on a Trapper Education Course: Complete this form and mail it to the nearest district coordinator (pg 35).

To the trapping coordinator: Please send me more information on trapper education classes being held near me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone (_____) _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Date Sent _____

Wisconsin Trappers Association
2102 US Hwy 10
Junction City, WI 54443

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